

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A printer for tax labels, comprising:
a printhead movably positionable with respect to a print media; and
a controller coupled to the printhead to cause the printhead to print a number of machine-readable symbols each encoding a unique identifier on the print media associatable with tax information.

2. The printer of claim 1, further comprising:
a transport mechanism controlled by the controller and operable to transport the print media with respect to the printhead.

3. The printer of claim 1 wherein the unique identifiers are printed sequentially.

4. A device to track tax data, comprising
a reader selectively operable to read a unique identifier from an item;
a user input device selectively operable to input tax information regarding the item; and
a communications link coupled to the reader and the user input device to transmit the unique identifier and tax information from the device.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein the reader comprises a wireless transmitter and receiver having a frequency compatible with an operating frequency of a wireless memory device carried by the item and encoding the unique identifier.

6. The device of claim 4 wherein the reader comprises an RF tag interrogator to interrogate an RF tag carried by the item and encoding the unique identifier.

7. The device of claim 4 wherein the reader comprises an optical imager and decoder to image and decode the unique identifier encoded in a machine-readable symbol.

8. The device of claim 4, further comprising:

an automatic calendar coupled to the communications link to provide a date thereto each time the communications link transmits the unique identifier and tax information from the device.

9. A tax verification device, comprising:

a reader selectively operable to read a unique identifier from an item; and

a bi-directional communications link selectively operable to transmit the read unique identifier from the device and to receive tax information based on the read unique identifier.

10. The tax verification device of claim 9 wherein the reader comprises

a wireless transmitter and receiver having a frequency compatible with an operating frequency of a wireless memory device carried by the item and encoding the unique identifier.

11. The tax verification device of claim 9 wherein the reader comprises

an RF tag interrogator to interrogate an RF tag carried by the item and encoding the unique identifier.

12. The tax verification device of claim 9 wherein the reader comprises

an optical imager and decoder to image and decode the unique identifier encoded in a machine-readable symbol.

13. A machine readable structure, comprising:

a data structure storing tax information concerning a taxable item; and

means for associating the machine readable structure with the taxable item.

14. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a wireless memory tag.

15. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a machine-readable symbol.

16. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the data structure stores a tax payment condition corresponding to a tax payment status of the taxable item

17. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the data structure stores a product type identifier and a manufacture identifier.

18. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the data structure stores a taxing authority identifier.

19. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the data structure stores a tax payment date.

20. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the data structure stores an amount of tax paid.

21. The machine readable structure of claim 13 wherein the data structure stores an origin identifier corresponding to an origin of the taxable item.

22. A computer-readable memory, comprising:
a data structure having a number of records, each of the records identifiable by an identifier corresponding to a taxable item and storing a tax payment condition corresponding to a tax payment status of the taxable item.

23. The computer-readable memory of claim 22 wherein the records further store a product type identifier and a manufacture identifier.

24. The computer-readable memory of claim 22 wherein the records further store a taxing authority identifier.

25. The computer-readable memory of claim 22 wherein the records further store a tax payment date.

26. The computer-readable memory of claim 22 wherein the records further store an amount of tax paid.

27. The computer-readable memory of claim 22 wherein the records further store an origin identifier corresponding to an origin of the taxable item.